

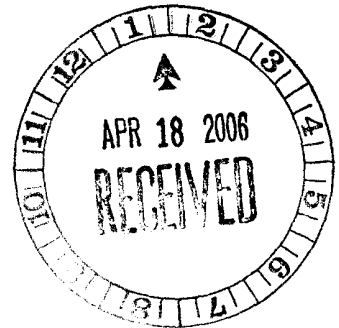
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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P O Box 131 Center Point, IA., 52213-0131 319-849-1844  
Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director



April 17, 2006

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Mr. Vernon Williams  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K St. NW  
Washington, D. C., 20423-0001

Ref. AB 33 (Sub No. 153X)  
Via FAX

Dear Mr. Williams:

I tried, unsuccessfully, to reach your office by telephone today in order to discuss the status of our application for an extension of time in the above matter but was unable to get through, being "cut off" each time.

Today I received a copy of a letter addressed to you, from the Monroe County Supervisors. Therein Mr. Koffman states reasons why he believes the Surface Transportation Board should not grant the requested extension of time to finalize these negotiations. Mr. Koffman is wrong to criticize the Iowa Trails Council for the noxious weeds that are claimed to be on the property. The ITC does not own the property at this point and weed control is therefore not our responsibility. I do believe that Iowa law gives the county supervisors power to eradicate any such weeds that may be neglected by property owners.

Mr. Koffman also complains about the number of extensions of time The STB has granted in which to complete negotiations. The Iowa Trails Council would have preferred to have these negotiations completed well ahead of this time but circumstances have prevented this from happening. There have been personnel changes as well as the usual questions of land value etc. that have occurred. The railroad has agreed to each extension requested and whereas this does not mandate the STB to grant the extension of time requested it is traditional that such extensions be granted when there is an indication that both parties wish to continue these negotiations.

Referring to Mr. Koffman's noting the language of the earlier decision of the STB in the granting of an extension of time, that the railroad MAY abandon the right-of-way if no agreement is reached within the time granted. Obviously the railroad has not chosen to exercise this right.

It should be noted, as stated in our letter of March 27, that the Iowa Department of Transportation has taken an interest in the acquisition of this property for conversion to a trail. That Department now expects to take title for the State and to assume full responsibility for the right-of-way.

We would appreciate hearing from you that our request for an extension of time has been granted. We truly believe that within this time negotiations with the railroad will be finalized.

Page two, letter to Vernon Williams, Surface Transportation Board, April 17, 2006

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom F. Neenan", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Tom F. Neenan

Copies of this correspondence are being provided to

Paul V. Koffman, Chairman Monroe County Supervisors  
Mack H. Shumate Jr., Senior General Attorney, Union Pacific Railroad Legal Department  
Craig Markley, Iowa Department of Transportation  
The Hon. Leonard Boswell, US House of Representatives